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Bill Feldmeier
Interim Executive Director



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of
THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(SRTAC)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §41-511.22 to members of the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT), the Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) and the general public that the committees will hold a meeting open to the public on **Friday, April 6, 2012 beginning at 1pm at the BLM-Arizona State Office, One North Central Building, 8th Floor, Phoenix (NE corner of Central and Washington)**. Visitors may park on the first level of the Parking Garage by entering off of 1st Street (heading north) from Washington Street (ONE WAY heading west). Please use the Visitor Stalls (marked in Green). Have your parking ticker validated at the reception desk on the 8th Floor before going to the conference rooms. **This meeting meets the requirement of the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to convene at least annually a diverse group of motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users representing public interests.** Public comments will be taken. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

AGENDA

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF
- C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - during the public meeting, the Chair may afford any person the opportunity to present statements, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. Those wishing to address the Committee must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Each presentation will be allowed not more than five minutes. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study or re-schedule the matter for further consideration at a later time. Comments pertinent to agenda items may be discussed during the discussion for that item.
- D. OLD BUSINESS
 - 1. Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2012 meeting.
- E. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Open Meeting Law Orientation – General Counsel for State Parks will present information on the requirements for conducting public meetings.

2. **Discuss the 2013 International Trails Symposium (ITS)** – Tom Fitzgerald will update the committee on the symposium. Discussion may include what types of help ASCOT and OHVAG may be asked to provide during the symposium.

3. **Discuss the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** – Staff will present information on the status of federal apportionments to the Recreational Trails Program and the balances available. Staff will also propose and explain changes to the 40-30-30 distribution of the fund. The Committees will discuss the RTP and provide guidance to State Parks Staff. 1-6

F. REPORTS

1. The 2011 OHVAG Chair and/or designees will report on the Statewide OHV Program projects and accomplishments from 2011.

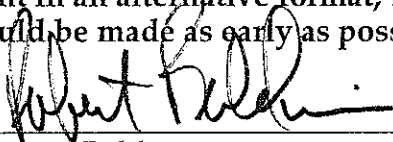
2. The 2011 ASCOT Chair and/or designees will report on the non-motorized trails projects and accomplishments from 2011.

G. ADJOURNMENT

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Committee is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona and on the State Parks website at <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html> or <http://azstateparks.com/committees/OHVAG.html>.

For additional information contact Robert Baldwin (602) 542-7130.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, or this document in an alternative format, by contacting State Parks, at 602-542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.


Robert Baldwin
Arizona State Parks

3-29-12
Date

Posted at: Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

And at: <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html>
<http://azstateparks.com/committees/OHVAG.html>

**DRAFT Minutes of the PUBLIC MEETING of
THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SRTAC)
of the ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD**

Held on Friday, May 20, 2011 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Rock Ranger District Office, 8375 State Route 179, Sedona, AZ pursuant to A.R.S. §41-511.22. This meeting meets the requirement of the Federal Recreational Trails Program to convene at least annually a diverse group of motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users representing public interests. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

AGENDA

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

John Savino, Chair OHVAG/Citizen-at-Large - UTV user
Maureen DiCindis, ASCOT/Maricopa Assn of Governments - hiker
Nick Lund, ASCOT/TRACKS - hiker
Pete Pfeifer, OHVAG/American Motorcyclist Assn - dirt bike rider
Ryan Domsallia, ASCOT/Apache-Sitgreaves NF - both
Tom Fitzgerald, ASCOT/Central Arizona Project - hiker
Bruce Weidenhamer, ASCOT/Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona - hiker
Linda Slay, ASCOT/Arizona Horse Council - equestrian
Lisa Gerdl, ASCOT/Take A Hike - hiker
Kent Taylor, Chair ASCOT/Citizen-at-Large - trail biker/hiker
Anna Pfender, ASCOT/Arizona Trail Assn - hiker
Phyllis Ralley, ASCOT/Citizen-at-Large - hiker
Don French, OHVAG/White Mountain Open Trails Assn - UTV user
Rebecca Antle, OHVAG/AZ Assn of 4-wheel Drive Clubs - 4-wheeler
Joined the meeting in progress:

Dan Grunseth, ASCOT/City of Phoenix - all non-motorized activities

David Moore, Vice-Chair OHVAG/Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (sportsman)- 4-wheeler

State Parks Staff:

Joy Hernebrode, Asst Attorney General representing State Parks

Jay Ziemann, Asst Director Partnerships Division

Doris Pulsifer, Chief Resources & Public Programs Section

Robert Baldwin, RTP Manager / Committee Liaison

Public who voluntarily identified themselves:

Sandee McCullen, AZ OHV Coalition - 4-wheeler

Warren Williams, Coconino Trail Riders - dirt biker

Thomas McArthur, Coconino Trail Riders - hiker, equestrian, trail biker, dirt biker

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2010 Meeting.

Motion - Nick Lund Second - Don French, approved unanimously with name spelling corrections (Gerdl, Pfender, Weidenhamer).

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Open Meeting Law / Robert's Rules Orientation. – General Counsel for State Parks will present information on the requirements for conducting public meetings.

State Parks General Counsel, Joy Hernebrode, presentation on AZ Open Meeting Law & Robert's Rules of Order

Actions taken in violation of the OML are invalid.

New communication media (email, twitter, texting, etc.) has created new ways to violate the OML.

Board/ committee members are responsible for knowing the OML. New members must review OML (http://www.azag.gov/Agency_Handbook/Agency_Handbook.html-chapter 7) at least one day before taking office/sitting in an open meeting.

OML applies anytime a quorum of members meet in public or communicate through social media on any issue that might come before the committee for action. The discussion may take place over a period of time if a quorum of members are involved.

Polling the committee membership by a committee member is a violation even if the results are discussed later in public.

Meeting may be conducted telephonically if: 1) the committee has previously determined that telephonic meeting may be conducted, 2) the public has access to a room where the conversation may be heard, and 3) meeting must be noticed at least 24 hours in advance at a location that is on file for that committee with the Secretary of State.

Staff (a non-voting person) may distribute information to all committee members as long as no interchange regarding that information is done. Sending an email to a group addressed in the "blind copy" field prevent use of the "reply all" option.

The agenda must reasonably inform the public of what will be discussed and what action may be taken. Discussions that vary from the announced topics are not legal and must be agendized for the next meeting. If the public raises an issue that is not on the agenda, it may not be discussed until it has been put on the agenda at a future meeting.

The public must be allowed to attend an OML meeting without identifying themselves. Any action that might intimidate a member of the public and cause them to leave the meeting is not legal. Signing in to access a building to attend a meeting cannot be required. The public is required to identify themselves if they want to address the group. If the name they provide is clearly not theirs (Mickey Mouse), no further acknowledgment may be required.

All members of the public must have equal access to speak. The committee may restrict the time allowed for each presentation and may limit responses from members of the same group by stating the same on the agenda. The committee may decline to allow any public comments, but this is not politically advisable. If anyone is allowed to speak, all must be allowed to speak.

Minutes must be taken and available for public inspection within three business days after the meeting. Recorded meeting tapes must be available. The minutes must include: 1) date, time, place of the meeting; 2) members present and absent; 3) a general

description of the matters discussed, even if no vote is taken; 4) an accurate description of the legal matters proposed, discussed, or taken and including the name of the person who proposed the motion; and 5) the name of each person make statements or presenting material to the committee in reference to related legal action. Detailed minutes (or tapes) are important to identify exactly what was discussed or said.

Approval of the minutes is a statement by the committee that description of the actions and the discussions at the meeting are accurate. They minutes reflect what was actually said, not what was meant to be said and cannot be amended for that reason.

An executive session call be called to discuss sensitive issues without public participation, but the ASCOT and OHVAG committees should not have any issues that fall within those exceptions (personnel issues, legal advice, land purchase, proprietary information, interstate commerce). An executive session must be announced on the agenda with the statute that allows that discussion. Separate minutes must be taken.

A committee member may discuss issues that may come before the committee or actions taken by the committee with members of the public.

The committee should provide a "courtesy notice" if a quorum of members may be participating in or present at an event. The notice should acknowledge that the members will be present, but no issues that may require future committee action will be discussed. A field trip or workshop where pertinent issues are likely to be discussed must be agendaized.

Complaints may be pursued by the attorney general's office, a county attorney in the county where the meeting occurred, a representative from the ombudsman's office, or by a private attorney. A violation may include: 1) \$500 personal fine, 2) attorney's fees, 3) removed from office, 4) subjected to additional OML training, or 5) subject to monitoring.

Robert's Rules of Order

The State Parks Board has directed all committees to follow these rules as closely as possible. They make a meeting more efficient, more fair, and are an effective way to organize the activities.

The Chair is responsible for maintaining order at the meeting, staying on task, and making sure the record is clear. A role call is recommended. Committee members should be asked to identify themselves/affiliation/interests for the benefit of the public.

Committee members should not speak until acknowledged by the Chair. You do not have to allow people to disrupt the meeting. You must be very diplomatic in taking any action to remove a person from a meeting. They must be clearly advised at least three

times that they are out of order and may be removed from the meeting. This must be reflected in the minutes.

The Chair must be clear about what agenda item is being discussed. Upon statement as such on the agenda, the Chair may take items out of order. If a staff recommendation is being discussed, it is advisable to acknowledge the proposed motion before beginning a discussion. Other issues may require discussion before a motion is formulated. In all cases, discussion may be allowed after a motion is seconded.

Only one motion should be considered a time. A Chair should not make or second motions unless the minimum for a quorum is present. No anonymous or secret ballots are allowed and proxies cannot be accepted. Roll call votes are particularly helpful on telephonic meeting.

Approval of general action (adjournment, a break in the meeting, approval of minutes) may be done by the Chair using a "unanimous consent" process, i.e. "with no objection we will break for 30 minutes and return at 1:30 pm." It must be followed after a pause for objections with "hearing no objections the meeting will break until 1:30pm".

A motion may be modified with the agreement of person who made the motion and the second. A member may force a vote by "calling for the question" with a second. Then no further discussion is allowed.

You may not respond or discuss public comments unless it is something that has been identified on the agenda. Appropriate responses would be: 1) I personally will speak to you after the meeting, 2) that sounds like something we need to talk about and we will include that on the agenda for the next meeting, or 3) thank you very much for your comment. Public comments may be accepted during the committee discussion of that item or during the public comment period.

Use a motion or the unanimous consent process to clearly identify the adjournment of the meeting. All discussion of committee business must cease.

Nominations do not require a second. The nominee should be asked if they are willing to serve. Then you vote in the order of the nominations received.

2. Presentation of Arizona State Parks Administered Trail Funds. – Staff will present an overview of the Arizona State Parks administered trail funds.

Baldwin reviewed the status of State Parks administered funds. See report D2 & attachment D2A & D2B.

3. **Discuss the Federal Recreational Trails Program.** – The Committees will discuss the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Fund and provide guidance to State Parks Staff on implementation and expenditures.

Baldwin reviewed uses of the RTP fund and current balances. See report D3 & attachments D3A, D3B, & D3C.

Ralley - Is there a way to track how the trail maintenance funds have been used? Is there a way to identify how much of what types of work is being done?

Baldwin - The application requires the land manager to identify the trails where they want work done. It is not specific to what exactly needs to be done. A land manager may submit a variety of trails that need work, then assign the crew based on how they want to use them. Typically, the trail crews do the more technical work and volunteers do the lighter work as match.

Pfeifer - I have gotten contact information for the agency persons and talked to them about the status of their project. I've made a sheet where I can document progress and have asked for milestones from the agency to identify when the project might be completed.

Savino - We are including as an item on our meeting agenda a place for the OHVAG members to report on the status of projects they have visited in their area.

Antle - Can you explain what a rescission is? The definition says the unmaking of a contract. Do they have to say why?

Baldwin - If after Congress appropriates funds for a program, they determine that they don't really want to spend that much in that program, they issue a notice of rescission. This undoes that appropriation to the extent specified. They generally limit the rescission to "unobligated" funds, which means if a projects has received funding authorization, those funds are not available under the rescission.

Ralley - Is there a formal process to poll the agencies to determine how they want to use the trail funds?

Baldwin - When we conduct the State Trail Plan every five years, we solicit input from users as to what needs they see on the trails they use. That information is used to determine how we give out any of our grant funds. Projects that meet a "high priority need" are more likely to get funding ahead of projects that meet lesser priority needs. The legislation for the State OHV fund requires consideration of the priorities in the "plan" in determining which projects are funded and we use that same approach with the RTP funds.

Taylor - The trail maintenance program was originally developed based on the information received during development of the State Trails Plan. Trail maintenance

has always been identified as the number one need by users. Since the Heritage Fund could not be used for routine trail maintenance, the RTP fund was dedicated for that purpose. Then Annie (McVay) and Bob developed a process to eliminate some of the roadblocks to getting the money spent and the program has been very successful since.

Baldwin - When the RTP Trail Maintenance Program was developed we had the Heritage Fund available to build new trails. Now that the Heritage Fund is no longer available, we have expanded the use of trail maintenance funds to include building some new trail. That is basically limited to short connector segments. These require full NEPA documentation. This makes it a big deal to the non-federal entities who are not familiar with the NEPA process and may have to contract out that work.

Grunseth - Are restrooms eligible as non-motorized trail projects?

Baldwin - When we were giving out Heritage Fund trails grant, trailheads and support facilities were always eligible. Now, trail fund are limited to maintenance projects.

Savino - We have been working with the Forest Service in our area to position trailheads where they can be used by both motorized and non-motorized trail users. So, when we use motorized funds to add a restroom to a trailhead, it is also available to non-motorized users.

Baldwin talked about use of the education portion of the funds and referenced the video production being done by Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona with a \$30,000 grant.

Weidenhamer - I've seen some of the early cuts from the trails videos Michael Baker is developing for Volunteers for Outdoors Arizona and they are really sharp. He is using professional video crews and they are giving a lot of consideration to how to make them interesting. The first of those should be posted soon.

Baldwin - These funds can be used toward the costs for safety and environmental education portions of the National Trails Symposium if Arizona is selected for that. The education portion is an optional category and if funds are in jeopardy of being lost because they are not being used for education, they can be moved to the projects portion and allocated there.

Slay - So, the problem with using the non-motorized funds for new trails is having to do the NEPA.

Baldwin - Correct, all of our recent trails plans have identified that there is no priority need for new trails. And the current trails maintenance program does allow for construction of new connector or short segments.

The committee did not suggest any changes in the current operation of the Recreational Trails Program.

4. Discuss the Application to Host the National Trails Symposium. – Tom Fitzgerald will update the committee on the application process.

Tom Fitzgerald provided an update on the status of the application to bring the National Trails Symposium to Arizona. Arizona last hosted this event in 1998 in Tucson. It is held every two years and hosts about 400 to 500 participants. I had help from Ellen Billbrey from State Parks and Bill Gibson from the BLM. We think we submitted a very good application and have a great chance of landing the event. The site we have proposed is the Radisson Hotel on the Fort McDowell reservation. One of the key ingredients is the ability to house the registrants and provide enough meeting and display space for the event. We are considering outdoor tents to meet the requirement for at least 10 breakout room and are working with alternative hotels nearby to meet the room requirement. We are looking for communities, corporations, vendors, or any groups that would be willing to help sponsor those tents or the symposium itself. They are asking for about \$120,000 guarantee to cover their expenses. We think the Native American participation could be an asset to us since the Native Americans have not been involved in any previous symposiums. I am asking you to help me identify any potential sponsors. Please send that info to: tfitz_red@yahoo.com or 480.680.3552. We think this will be great opportunity to involve the motorized trails committed because of the cooperation we exhibit and the diverse motorized opportunities here in Arizona.

Lund - Can vendor use their own tents?

Fitzgerald - They like to have as many people together under one tent as possible. We have proposed connecting smaller "themed" tents, but their bread and butter is the face time the vendors get with the participants.

Savino - Do you know the costs for the booths?

Fitzgerald - They have levels of sponsorship that include different booth sizes and locations and I know they have individual booth costs. I would be happy to get you that information.

Fitzgerald - We are shooting for the first weekend (Sunday 4th - Wednesday 7th) of November 2012 which leaves Thursday-Sunday and Monday (Veteran's Day) for participants to enjoy the great Arizona weather and recreation opportunities. We will be needing lots of volunteers to assist with transportation and breakout workshops. We anticipate finding out if we get the event within the next couple of months.

5. Discuss the Recent Activities of ASCOT and OHVAG. – ASCOT and OHVAG will share their recent activities.

Taylor - We conducted two workshops since last year. One the day after our meeting last year focused on volunteerism, then again in December who hosted a strategic planning workshop. We are adjusting our existence without Annie McVay and are conducting our own meetings.

Weidenhamer - One of ASCOT's most important roles is networking across our spectrum and we get a good feel for the issues affecting all of our partners and user group. I would like to get a broader picture of what issues and concerns face the motorized side. It would be important for us to know if there is a conflict between a specific motorized group and a non-motorized group. So, maybe one of the agenda items could be a moderated or panel discussion of those types of issues.

Lund - We could also discuss the positive interactions going on out there.

Baldwin - This type of discussion could be included in a workshop atmosphere if the general theme of the workshop was appropriate.

Savino - We had funds to award and projects to review. We are trying to assist State Parks staff in monitoring the progress of those projects.

Pfeifer - I wrote an article for the American Motorcyclist Assn to explain and promote Arizona's OHV Ambassador Program.

Savino - We are expanding the Ambassador through grants to organizations around the state to sponsor OHV Ambassador units. To date we have a group starting up on the Prescott National Forest.

Pfeifer - We are reaching out to the local clubs to be sure they are informed about the projects being done in their area and asking them to be eyes and ears for us to ensure the projects are moving along.

6. Report On the 2012 State Parks Budget. – Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs Section updated the committee on the State Parks budget for 2012 and the effects it may have on trails programs.

Definitions:

Appropriation = appropriated by the Legislature in a budget for specific purposes.

Non-appropriated = controlled by Parks Board, reviewed by Legislature and dependent on available revenues.

Back fills = a tool to enable State Parks to transfer money from one State Parks fund to another with Legislative approval to help State Parks comply with legislated reductions to specific funds.

The State Parks budget is comprised of money from three sources: the appropriated and non-appropriated funds we just mentioned and federal funds. The budget has three major components: Park Operations, Partnerships, and Agency Administration.

The Parks Division headed by Assistant Director Jay Ream included the development and operations sections. The Partnership Division headed by Jay Ziemann includes the State Historic Preservation Office, public relations, research and marketing, grants, and resource management sections. The last three have been combined into one section called Resources and Public Programs section. The Administrative Division headed Kent Ennis includes the fiscal services, budget, human resources, and IT sections.

On the display (Attachment D6-A) you see the General Fund listed as an appropriated fund. Back in 2002 this portion accounted for 47% of the State Parks budget. In 2009 it was totally eliminated. The Enhancement fund is the revenue we generate in our parks. Non-appropriated funds include some funds that are restricted by statute for specific uses, like the State Land Conservation Fund. We get \$18m per year from this fund that is included in the budget, but we cannot use it for any park operation or agency expenses. So, when the news story tells about State Parks giving out \$40m in grants, it creates a perception that we have lots of money. We give out the grant funds because that is what they are designated for, use by our partners, not us.

Another non-appropriated fund that we will no longer receive is the Heritage Fund. We were getting \$10m per year and some of that was designated for use by State Parks to purchase land for conservation and cover some development costs in our parks. That was ended in last year's legislation and any funds we have remaining in house must be spent by the end of this fiscal year. We are feverishly using that money for capital improvements that we have not been able to do over the years.

Next year is the fifth year of budget reductions as State revenues have decreased from \$10.2b to about \$7.3b. State Parks budget in 2008 was about \$80m and this year it will be \$19m. Most of our expense is employee related. During this period staff has been reduced by 40%.

This chart (Attachment D6-B) shows the sweeps to our funds by year from 2008. Even though the sweeps decline from year to year, so do the balances in those funds. So, if it looks like we are not being affected in 2012, it is only because we don't have any funds to sweep.

The OHV Recreation Fund was swept for \$1.5m in 2008, \$1.7m in 2009, \$584k in 2010, \$878k in 2011, and \$133k for 2012. These amounts do not include the \$692,100 that has

been diverted (appropriated to State Parks for park operations to replace the past general fund appropriation) from the fund since 2002.

For 2011 the Parks Board passed an \$18m budget. Since then we have used partnership agreements with local communities to keep some parks open. This amounted to an increase to expected revenue of \$1.5m with subsequent costs of \$600k. The produced a net gain of \$900k. We continue to operate under these partnership agreements to keep the parks open.

This chart (Attachment D6-C) shows the status of our parks. The first nine are parks that generate enough revenue to cover their costs and have never been scheduled for closure. The next 10 are the ones we are currently operating under partnership agreements and State Parks staff are present. The next group are parks that are open and being operated by the partner with no State Parks staff present. The last three are the only ones closed to the public and Lyman Lake is going to be open for the summer, as it was last year under an agreement with Apache County.

The next slide shows a comparison of where we stand currently stand in our revised budget of \$19m against the original budget of \$18m. The Parks Board approved the amended budget in March. Soon after that the Chapter 24 provision of the 2011 budget bill took effect and swept another \$1.4m from the SLIF (State Lake Improvement Fund). This brought the total sweeps to that fund up to about 50% of the available revenue. This Chapter 24 provision will require a \$2.4m sweep of our Enhancement Fund in 2012. For 2012 the Legislature approved State Parks spending of \$8.8m from the Enhancement Fund which will leave us \$1.2m short of what was projected in our budget. With the sweep, this means we have to generate at least \$11.2 in revenue in order to spend the \$8.8m. This makes it tough on an agency that is expected to operate a break-even business.

It is again misleading when the public sees that State Parks was appropriated \$10m for operations. That only means we can spend that much, only if we generate those revenues.

Savino – Have the park fees been raised?

Ziemann - They were increased last March and we have been raising our fees every year to the point now that they are among the highest in the nation. I think we are at the point where we are frightening people off. It now costs about \$100 to take a family of four to Karchner Caverns.

Staff asked the Parks Board in April to transfer money from our Enhancement Fund to back-fill the SLIF to cover the pending sweep. This fund also allows us more flexibility to operate the parks.

The budget process begins in March, but it is a yearlong process as we try to guess what the legislature is going to do and as revenue comes in over or below projections. The information gathered during this process is presented to the Parks Board for approval of the next year's budget in June.

As far as trails programs are considered, we don't anticipate much change from last year. This is always contingent on whether the Legislature calls for more cuts during the year and whether we meet our projected revenue.

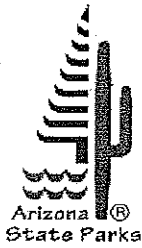
Weidenhamer – Are the sweeps you identified included in ongoing legislation that would affect 2013 and 2014?

Ziemann – Chapter 24 is part of the most recent budget actions that affect the remainder of 2011 and 2012 only.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - during the public meeting, the Committee may afford any person the opportunity to present statements relating to agenda items, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. Those wishing to address the Committee must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Time permitting, each presentation will be given approximately five minutes. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study or re-schedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.

NONE

E. ADJOURNMENT - Motion French, Second Antle, unanimous @ 12:10pm



SRTAC Action Item / Information Report
Agenda Item #: E-3

Title: Discuss the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
Presenter: Robert Baldwin, State Parks Grants Coordinator
Date: April 6, 2012

Background:

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2005. The RTP is the successor to the original National Recreational Trails Fund program (also known as NRTFA or the Symms Act), which was authorized by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) of 1998.

In Arizona, the Governor designated the Arizona State Parks Board administering authority of the RTP funds. As the agency responsible for the RTP, State Parks works closely with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to ensure that program expenditures comply with federal requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Authorization of funds and compliance with NEPA is through the FHWA. Funds are authorized for obligation through an interagency agreement between State Parks and ADOT. The RTP is a reimbursement program and requires a match.

The legislation (SAFETEA-LU) authorizing the RTP program expired at the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2009 and has been extended by continuing resolutions through FFY2012 at the 2009 level. State Parks has recently been notified that due to a computation error Arizona will be receiving additional funds of about \$300,000 per year for 2009-2011. The adjusted calculation has increased the year apportionment for 2012 by that amount.

Attachment E3A shows RTP apportionments under SAFETEA-LU and the extensions.

Status to Date:

A requirement of the program is that each State must receive guidance on the program and distribution of funds from a multi-user recreational trails advisory committee. In Arizona this function is served by convening a joint meeting of the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) and the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG), citizen advisory groups appointed by the Arizona State Parks Board. Comments from the general public are solicited and considered during the open public meeting.

Currently, the non-motorized portion of the RTP funds is distributed through the State Parks Trail Maintenance Program for routine trail maintenance projects.

SRTAC Action Item / Information Report
Agenda Item #: E-3

The program is open to all managers of public trails. Project selection is by lottery. Recipients select one of the five trail crews (mainly youth conservation corps) who are on contract with Arizona State Parks to perform the work. The crews work under the direction of the project sponsor and are paid directly by Arizona State Parks. Match contributions to meet the program requirement are from agency staff and volunteer groups.

At the 2010 SRTAC meeting the committee recommended that RTP funds be offered to the project sponsors of the Trails Heritage Fund projects that were cancelled to complete their projects. All project sponsors were contacted and three entities representing five projects expressed interest in using the RTP funds. A total of \$361,118 was awarded to the three projects sponsors by the State Parks Board. To date only the Red Rock Ranger District with two projects totaling \$14,499 has completed the NEPA compliance requirements and has begun work to complete their projects. The City of Flagstaff was offered \$227,777 to complete the signing of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) and has been working on NEPA issues for the past eighteen months. They should finally be ready to move forward soon. The BLM Hassayampa Field Office was offered \$118,842 to complete their project on the Black Canyon Trail. It appears the work originally funded under the Trails Heritage Fund grant was completed using other funds. RTP funds will not be needed.

Staff proposed to the non-motorized group (ASCOT) that the non-motorized portion could also be used for project grants. This process will be developed in the next year.

The motorized portion is offered through a competitive grant program that has a wide variety of eligible projects including trail construction, trail support facilities, resource mitigation, signage, and others improvements. Since the last SRTAC meeting State Parks has awarded \$729,373 to five motorized trail projects.

Upcoming Activities:

Over the past couple of years State Parks has not been able to obligate enough of the yearly appropriation of RTP funds to avoid the accumulation of significant balances. This is mostly due to the limited applications to the State Parks Trail Maintenance Program. Offering grants for other trail projects will help remedy this situation. Staff is also proposing the following changes to the allocation of each yearly appropriation.

First, the 5% allowed for education projects will no longer be set aside from the allotments for projects. Instead, that money will be available in both the motorized and non-motorized grant processes to stand alone education project applications or as a component of development project applications.

Second, based on yearly obligation authority limitations imposed by ADOT, it may be necessary to shift the 50/50 distribution of the 40 percent apportioned for diverse recreational trail use. For instance, in a year where there is a high demand for non-motorized projects, up to the full 40 percent could be used. This would mean that in that year up to 70% of the project funds could be awarded to

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non-motorized projects and 30% would be available for motorized projects. The goal is always to return to equilibrium, however, this allows State Parks to be more responsive to immediate needs and insure that funds are being obligated in a timely manner. This will also allow State Parks to avoid splitting funding for a project over two apportionment years (a clerical inconvenience).

Time Frame/Target Date for Completion:

The elimination of the separate education portion would be immediate and retroactive to include apportionments for 2009 through 2012. The shift to a "floating" distribution of the diverse recreational trail uses portion would depend on the demand on the funds. There will be both motorized and non-motorized grant solicitations beginning in May.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

The Parks Board has authorized the OHVAG to select high priority projects for funding. ASCOT has not been involved with the grant process in the past. However, their input will be included in developing the rating criteria for ongoing grant solicitations.

Attachments:

Attachment E3A – RTP Apportionments Under SAFETEA-LU and Extensions.

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Motion:

I move that the portion of each year's apportionment available for education no longer be identified separately from the projects portion.

Amended Motion:

Public Comment/Questions:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Savino	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
David Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pete Pfeifer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Don French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Thomas McArthur	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Nash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rebecca Antle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Approve <input type="checkbox"/>		Deny <input type="checkbox"/>		Amend <input type="checkbox"/>	

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Motion:

I move that State Parks be allowed to "float" the 40% apportioned for diverse recreational trail uses between motorized and non-motorized recreation uses with the intent of maintaining an equal distribution of that apportionment from year to year.

Amended Motion:

Public Comment/Questions:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
John Savino	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
David Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pete Pfeifer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Don French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Thomas McArthur	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Nash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rebecca Antle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Approve <input type="checkbox"/>		Deny <input type="checkbox"/>		Amend <input type="checkbox"/>	

ATTACHMENT E3A

RECISSION / RETURN	RTP FEDERAL YEAR	APPORTIONMENT	OA REDUCTION	%	MOTORIZED PORTION @ 44%	NON-MOTORIZED PORTION @ 44%	ADMINISTRATION PORTION @ 7%	EDUCATION PORTION @ 5%	PROJECT OBLIGATIONS	BALANCE MOTORIZED	BALANCE NON-MOTORIZED
	FFY 2005	\$1,303,189.00	\$1,284,162.44	98.54%	\$565,031.47	\$565,031.47	\$89,891.37	\$64,208.12	\$1,107,028	\$10,705	\$0
	FFY 2006	\$1,453,155.00	\$1,239,661.43	85.31%	\$545,451.03	\$545,451.03	\$86,776.30	\$61,983.07	\$1,239,661	\$0	\$0
	FFY 2007	\$1,587,945.00	\$1,437,090.23	90.50%	\$632,319.70	\$632,319.70	\$100,596.32	\$71,854.51	\$1,437,090	\$0	\$0
FED REDUCTION OF 11.5%	FFY 2008	\$1,531,281.87	\$1,385,810.01	90.50%	\$609,756.41	\$609,756.41	\$97,006.70	\$69,290.50	\$1,268,474	\$58,668*	\$58,668*
					46.5%	46.5%					
	FFY2009	\$1,614,741.00	\$1,477,757.13	91.52%	\$687,157.07	\$687,157.07	\$103,443.00	\$0.00			
FED RESCISSION	FFY2009	-\$425,254.00	-\$425,254.00	100.00%	-\$212,627.00	-\$212,627.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
FEDERAL CORRECTION	FFY2009	\$320,122.00	\$288,109.80	90.00%	\$133,971.06	-\$78,655.94	\$20,167.70	\$0.00			
FINAL 2009		\$1,509,609.00	\$1,340,612.93		\$608,501.12	\$395,874.12	\$123,610.70		\$1,337,092	\$0	\$3,521
LESS ADOT REDUCTION OF \$130,551.97	FFY2010	\$1,484,189.03	\$1,335,769.96	90.00%	\$621,133.03	\$621,133.03	\$93,503.90	\$0.00		\$0	
2009 RESCISSION REVERSED	FFY2010	\$425,254.00	\$425,254.00	100.00%	\$212,627.00	\$212,627.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
FEDERAL CORRECTION	FFY2010	\$320,122.00	\$288,109.80	90.00%	\$133,971.06	\$133,971.06	\$20,167.69	\$0.00			
FINAL 2010		\$2,229,565.03	\$2,049,133.76		\$967,731.09	\$967,731.09	\$113,671.58			\$302,162	\$967,731
FEDERAL CORRECTION	FFY2011	\$1,999,657.00	\$1,799,691.30	90.00%	\$836,856.45	\$836,856.45	\$125,978.39	\$0.00		\$836,856	\$836,856
	FFY2012	\$713,198.00	\$641,878.20	90.00%	\$298,473.36	\$298,473.36	\$44,931.47	\$0.00		\$298,473	\$298,473
										\$1,437,491	\$2,103,060

* Education funds from 2005-2007 were moved forward to 2008. A balance of \$117,336.20 was lost because it was not obligated by September 30, 2011.

ATTACHMENT E3A